

Date: July 24, 2019 at 3:10:24 PM PDT
To:
Subject: Important message from Laurelhurst principal
Reply-To: vmartinez@pps.net



Dear Laurelhurst Families,

I hope this finds you enjoying some summer bliss. I want to let you know that I have been doing a lot of reflecting on what it means to be a building administrator. I have come to realize that while the job has been the job of a lifetime, it is not one that is sustainable long-term for me, as life balance has always been a core value of mine and I have struggled with this as principal. Time is all we have and it is precious, so I am making the difficult decision to leave administration. What I loved most about the role are the relationships built with the school community, and striving for more equitable schools through instruction and through meeting the social-emotional needs of our students. With that in mind, I have accepted an instructional specialist position in PPS at Atkinson, my neighborhood school.

I know my departure may come as a surprise, but what I know about Laurelhurst is that it is a strong community with many systems in place that will continue to put students first. I am so proud of the wonderful staff; learning from them has been the greatest gift and has made the decision to step down challenging, and yet, I also know I need to follow my sense of knowingness. I have so appreciated how Laurelhurst families support and show up for our incredible students and it has been an honor to partner with you and build community together. I am filled with gratitude for all your kindness, generosity, and service to our school.

I feel very fortunate that Alyson Brant will be serving as the AP for Laurelhurst. Alyson comes from Alder Creek in North Clackamas, where she served as Principal for eight years. She is passionate about a lot - instruction, equity, student voice, and collaboration with staff, students, and families. I will be working with Alyson to transition her into the school before my last day on August 2nd. I feel so confident that the school will be in good hands and that the opening of school will be successful.

The process for selecting a new principal will begin immediately. The first step will be a community meeting. Staff, parents, and the community are invited to meet with district leaders who want to hear about the characteristics and challenges that make Laurelhurst unique. They will also be prepared to explain the full hiring process in more detail and to gather input on the desired characteristics of the new principal.

The Laurelhurst community meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 29th at 5:00pm in the Laurelhurst Library. The information from the input session is used throughout the process and will be shared with the selected candidate to provide them a sense of the community's priorities and values. If you are unable to attend, you will still be able to provide feedback through a survey that we will be sending out through School Messenger following the meeting.

Thank you for all the wonderful memories and for the honor of serving as your principal.

With gratitude and much respect,

Vanessa